

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, and 9 have been amended to correct potential antecedent basis problems and to better clarify the invention as illustrated in FIGS. 2-3, for example, all without the insertion of any new matter.

The outstanding Office Action includes a rejection of Claim 1, 2, 5, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takashi (JP 58-122822), and a rejection of Claims 3, 4, 6-8, and 10 as being unpatentable over Takashi under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Before considering the rejections made based upon Takashi, it is believed that a brief review of the base Claim 1 subject matter would be helpful. In this regard, this claimed subject matter is directed to a process for the bonding a plastics pipe to another plastics part by means of ultrasound welding that uses sound waves which act longitudinally with respect to the pipe axis, while the arrangement of the areas to be welded is substantially parallel to the pipe axis. This ultrasound welding is combined with the forced insertion of the other plastics part into the plastics pipe in such a way that the plastics pipe is widened while there is at least some overlap between the exposure to sound and the forced insertion.

Turning to the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takashi, the rejection is traversed as to the subject matter of base Claim 1 because there is clearly no widening of pipe 2 illustrated as to FIGS. 3 or 4 of Takashi (the top and bottom FIGS. included with the Abstract).

The rejection of Claim 1 is, accordingly, traversed.

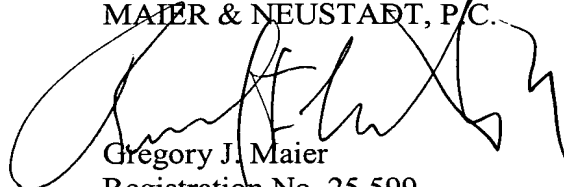
As Claims 2, 5, and 9 all ultimately depend from Claim 1, the rejection of these claims that include all the subject matter of Claim 1 is also traversed.

The rejection of Claims 3, 4, 6-8, and 10 as being unpatentable over Takashi under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is further traversed as the rationale offered for this rejection does not cure the above noted deficiency of Takashi.

As no further issues are believed to remain outstanding in the present application, it is believed that this application is clearly in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Gregory J. Maier, is written over the printed name and firm information.

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